

NEWS



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

TELS. WO 2-4155
WO 3-6925

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
August 3, 1967

RELEASE NO: 67-209

MARINER V
DETECTS TWO
SOLAR FLARES

Two solar flares, both described as of medium intensity, were detected this week by the Mariner V spacecraft en route from Earth to Venus.

Mariner V was launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration last June 14.

Telemetry from Mariner, via the Goldstone, Cal., station of the Deep Space Network, was received as the flares occurred by scientists and engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Cal.

Interplanetary science instruments aboard the spacecraft showed large increases in measurements of solar radiation at 1:30 p.m. and again at 8:47 p.m. EDT last Tuesday. Major changes in measurements were observed on the trapped radiation detector. Scientists expect similar readings by the solar plasma probe during the next few days.

N67-32304

(ACCESSION NUMBER)

(THRU)

(PAGES)

(CODE)

(NASA CR OR TMX OR AD NUMBER)

(CATEGORY)

8/3/67

Occurrence of the Class Two flares was confirmed by the Solar and Geomagnetic Monitoring Service at Fort Belvoir, Va., where visual observations of the flares were made.

When the flares occurred, Mariner V was about 8,225,000 miles from Earth and 86,830,000 miles from the Sun.

At 3 p.m. EDT today, the spacecraft was 8,650,759 miles from Earth and traveling at a velocity of 9,424 miles per hour relative to Earth. Mariner has flown 77,322,538 miles in its arcing trajectory to the planet Venus.